

Municipal Police Training Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes

MPTC Randolph-HQ

May 16, 2018

Call to Order

At 9:40 AM, Chairman Jim Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order and greeted all present.

Attendees

Chairman James Hicks-Northeast MA; Chief Brian Kyes-Mass Chiefs; Chief Michael Botieri-Southeast MA; Commandant Michael Baxter-MSP; Captain Richard Sexton-Boston PD; U/S Jennifer Queally-EOPSS; Atty James O'Brien-AG Office

MPTC Staff

Dan Zivkovich, Marylou Powers, Lara Thomas, Dan May

Guests

Shannon Sullivan, Tom Fleming, Sgt. Mark Courtois, Captain Jerry O'Rourke; Jeffrey Scott

Review/Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Minutes of April 2018 as written. Chief Botieri abstained.

Police Standards and Training

The following requests were presented and approved by the Committee:

Temporary Waivers:

Taylor Granger	Northampton PD
Jared Hague	Westfield PD
Jacob Stringer	West Stockbridge*

*allowed an extension until October 15, 2018, the start of the next WMass Academy

Permanent Exemptions:

Lakeisha Phelps	NH/UM Lowell
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There are two disciplinary hearings scheduled to commence immediately following this meeting. The student officers are: Ryan Strianese-SPMA8 and Allisha LaBonte-NECC.

Open Discussion

Captain Sexton asked if anyone had experience with exceptions for Ramadhan. The class was preparing for an assessment but the holiday requires fasting and water restrictions. Director Fleming recalled that he did have a similar incident and offered his experiences. Shannon Sullivan reminded us that it has been determined by the court that academies have an indirect employment relationship and should use employer guidelines.

ED Zivkovich noted that Chief Botieri and Chief Allen authored an article in the March issue of Police Chief Magazine that speaks to the opioid epidemic.

Chief Hicks provided an update of the Higher Ed working group's efforts to establish college credits for both academy completion and law enforcement experience. It has been recommended that a partnership be forged between MPTC and Higher Education institutions, in part, to develop a tool for assessing the learning and experience credit values. U/S Queally offered that it may also be an added enticement for self-sponsored students who could now earn credits towards a degree.

There is a concern in Central Mass that the Fitchburg 4+1 program is not going to adequately prepare students to enter the profession. After citing a particular concern of the Leominster PD, it was suggested that a letter be drafted to the Chief describing the legitimacy of the program. However, it was decided that we should not interject prematurely.

Shannon Sullivan shared that Secretary Bennett will be speaking at the MCOPA Super Meeting on ATF's guidance that LTC's and FID's should not be issued to anyone who has been before the Firearms Review Board, regardless of a favorable outcome. Their position is that federal law prohibits issuance.

Executive Director Report

Dan updated the members on the status of four cases involving MPTC currently in litigation.

Secretary Bennett has encouraged MPTC to apply for a grant through Homeland Security which would fund Advanced Trauma Care classes. MPTC could use those funds for the purpose of recertification.

Quinsigamond Community College has been granted permission to run a Basic Reserve Program for students in the CJ program on campus. They have been fully vetted as to their preparedness to run this program and their intent is to go beyond the mandated curriculum to add information on how to prepare for and have a successful job interview. As with any other program, graduates will have two years to secure a position after completing the program.

Dan briefed the members on HRD's prediction of the demise of the PAT. With funding being a major contributor to this, they are preparing for a \$500,000.00 budget cut which would eliminate the funding for the site, staffing and continued research on test validity. Additionally, it seems the firefighters actually pay for the PAT test up front and would now have to be reimbursed those fees. Chief Kyes then asked what the position of the

MPTC would be if there was to be no PAT. Dan reminded everyone that it is the Committee that sets the standards for training. MPTC would certainly want to do “something”, whether it be a version of Cooper or something based on the Harvard study and similar to what we are doing now with our pt standards. Certainly, we need a contingency plan. This will be placed on the June agenda for discussion.

Recruit Officer Training Updates

Boston: planning for a late November/early December class of 100-130

Lowell: Anticipates beginning a class of 59 officers May 21, 2018

SPMA8: currently at 83 municipal student officers (from 105) and 27 (from 35) SSPO's. Graduation of municipal officers is September 14, 2018

NECC: 41 in Platoon 1 and 40 in Platoon 2 in week 8. Graduation is September 21, 2018.

Plymouth: 51 officers in training and graduation is July 2, 2018, from Memorial Hall in Plymouth. September 10, 2018, is the next class.

Randolph: 47 officers in training. Graduation is scheduled for June 7, 2018, and will begin again on July 30, 2018.

Reading: 47 officers graduated April 11, 2018. The next class is June 4, 2018, and is full at 48. Anticipated graduation date is November 14, 2018.

Springfield: 46 student officers in a class that began May 7, 2018. November 1, 2018, is the tentative graduation date.

Transit: 44 student officers in training. Graduation is scheduled for September 5, 2018.

WMASS: 43 officers in training. Graduation is August 3, 2018, and the next class begins October 15, 2018.

Worcester: anticipates a class of 44 (40 Worcester candidates) in September 2018. No firm date as of yet.

Looking ahead, the June 4, 2018, Reading Academy is full at 48. Randolph will begin its second pilot program on July 30 and has 23 completed applications to date with 25 remaining seats available. The Plymouth Academy will begin its next ROC on September 10 and currently has 40 available seats. The Western MA Academy currently has 5 completed applications with 43 remaining seats available for its October 15, 2018, class. That is a total of 108 available academy seats. The reserve/sponsored list has a total of 19 potential applicants: 4 Reserve; 3 Full Time Other and 12 self-sponsored. They will be contacted regarding any available seats at the 30-day mark.

Database Rollout Update

Chief Hicks inquired as to what information MPTC might have on student officers who do not complete a fulltime or part-time course. After an explanation about present MPTC record systems, the advantages of the new database were explained, including the access that departments will have going forward. U/S Queally commented that EOPSS hopes to create a reporting/hiring mandate legislatively, but first, the infrastructure needs to be complete and in place. MPTC hopes to have the new database fully functioning by the end of 2018. This is dependent upon departments checking their present information for accuracy. Dan further explained that this goes beyond training, but will also capture certifications, licenses, etc.

Chief Kyes then asked if MPTC could set a standard that every person have their own LTC as opposed to “carrying on the badge.” Dan reiterated that MPTC is only able to set training standards; however, it might be considered for an entry level training requirement. Captain Sexton then suggested that if we were to go in that direction, it should be required upon completion of the academy in the event a student officer does not complete the academy. This will be added to the discussion when revising the CMR’s and Policies and Procedures.

Old Business

Funding and other legislation

The \$2.00 auto rental fee has gained much support recently, having been added to the Senate 2018 Supplemental amendment with a 38 – 0 roll call vote. This will now go to the legislative Conference Committee for discussion. Briefly discussed were some of the parameters and some of the possibilities for its use. We are cautiously optimistic.

Criminal Justice Reform Bill (out of order)

Dan explained that upon review, the impact to the MPTC will be minimal, in that we are already fulfilling the training mandates. However, he did comment that in section (c) the language continues to refer to “all local law enforcement agencies” even though our authority only extends to municipal, environmental and the University of MA.

Updates to 550 CMR 3.00

Marylou reported that a meeting had been planned for this afternoon until the requests came in for dismissal hearings. After some discussion and given the new curriculum and its possible impact, as well as schedules, the Standards Committee agrees that the process will begin in September. Information and suggestions continue to be collected for the review.

Reserve/Intermittent basic training hours and topics

This discussion will be tabled until the fulltime academy pilot(s) is complete.

Adoption of annual firearms qualification and training standard for all deployed weapons

This discussion was tabled until the June meeting.

New Business

Training Year 2019 in-service requirements for chiefs of police

After a short discussion, the Committee determined that TY19 will include mandatory training requirements for all Chiefs, in addition to the annual requirements for all officers. Based on discussions and recommendations, a Motion was made and seconded to mandate two topics: Response to the Opioid Epidemic (2 hours) and Restorative Justice and Diversion (2 hours) for all chiefs in the Commonwealth for TY 19. These topics are based on programs and articles designed and developed by local Chiefs. These topics will be included in this year's annual Chiefs training in September and will be videoed by MPI. In addition, one repetition will be offered during the training year at the MPTC Boylston facility.

Update on Recruit Officer Course pilot (Out of Order)

Academy Director Lara Thomas updated the Committee members on the current pilot being conducted at the Randolph Academy. She addressed student and instructor comments from the outset of the program and now, noting the change as the program went on and the pieces fell into place. Comments overheard so far include, "I didn't understand it until I did it!" and students who have past reserve or SSPO training have remarked that they are "thrilled" to be out of their seats and doing "real policing." At a recent meeting with chiefs and FTO's who have student officers in the class, Lara invited three officers to comment on the program. A former NH Academy graduate said he finally felt prepared to go out on the street, a feeling he did not experience with his previous academy training. A reserve officer with some street experience now felt as though he could handle calls with confidence, and an officer with no experience at all commented that she was confident in her ability to perform the functions of a police officer. Director Thomas commented on the teaching and testing protocols.

Chief Kyes expressed that he felt instructors should have input on testing materials as they could best determine what information was most important in a lesson. Currently, instructors are not given test materials as it is believed that utilization of the standard lesson plan will address all objectives. Eventually, there will be a single standard test bank and could possibly be used as a certification exam for those coming in from out of state. Further discussion will be necessary before a testing standard is determined. In the next pilot program, Academy Directors will be asked to participate and be involved as a mean of preparing them for the statewide push-out of the program. Certainly, a workshop will be in order and plans will be developed to assist the Directors as they implement the program in their academies.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 @ Boston Police Academy, 85 Williams Avenue, Hyde Park, MA

Adjournment

The motion was made, seconded and passed at 12:28 PM to adjourn.